



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees

Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar (Co-Chair), Kari Sasportas, Andy Rubinson, Molly Blaauw Gillis

Liaisons: Christina Coleman (DEI), Len Diggins (Select Board), Marci Shapiro-Ide (Council on Aging), Em Phillips (AHS)

Guests: Kellye Eversole, Amos Meeks, Laura Gitelson, Giuliana Stovall, Kym Goldsmith, John DiModica, Lieutenant Greg Flavin (APD)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM. KS assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines reviewed.
2. Welcome and introductions.
3. Reminder of revised meeting format reviewed.
4. Consent agenda.

- a. SRV motions to approve consent agenda, AR seconded, motion approved unanimously.
5. Membership/Recruitment update
- a. Recruitment flyer distributed. There is one applicant and plans to follow up with that person.
6. Working Group Updates and Membership
- a. Community Engagement Upcoming Events
 - i. Autism Acceptance Month event – KS provided update. Date set for 4/12 at 7 pm and the event will be virtual. Details are being finalized and promotional materials drafted.
 - ii. Transgender Day of Visibility – AR provided update. Date set for 3/31. An announcement has already been posted to Facebook and will be sent to mailing list shortly. The event is co-sponsored by Rainbows Across the Communities group, with several communities as co-sponsors.
 - iii. Discussion regarding Pride planning. Hoping to expand cross walk painting to different areas (i.e., East Arlington and the Heights) in addition to Arlington Center. LD suggested RC aim to present at 4/4 Select Board meeting to discuss crosswalks, hanging banners, and proclamation. The event will be held Sunday, June 12th in the afternoon. Potential locations include Uncle Sam Park and Whittemore Robbins House. MSI has agreed to help with reserving location. The Community Center will have a grand opening 4/28, so that location may be available, and the gardens next to Town Hall might also be an option. Location request should be submitted to the Select Board's office. MSI mentioned the opportunity for hosting a Pride stage for Porch Fest which is the following week in June, but after discussion it was determined that capacity is concern.
 - iv. The Heights Pride window painting is scheduled for 5/7. MG and AR working to get multiple windows together. Registration is \$25.00 per window (\$125 total). AR moved to approve funds, SR seconded, unanimous approval to spend \$125.
 - b. APS/Youth Engagement
 - i. The Arlington Public Schools LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Task Force is kicking off a speaker series, co-sponsored by RC and AHRC. The first session will take place on 3/29 at 6:45 PM (both in person at Town Hall and virtual). A panel discussion will highlight student leadership. The second session is scheduled for 4/26.
 - ii. MG will be participating in a discussion of health and sex ed for the district and will visit Lexington for a tour of gender neutral bathrooms in the schools.

- iii. MB shared Arlington YRBS results and discussion followed regarding Arlington data. KS asked about data from other communities to compare standardized results, availability of raw data to conduct additional analysis, and whether RC can have input on the development of the new survey instrument.
- iv. There will be an equity audit for APS and a volunteer from RC encouraged to apply. MB has applied to participate.

c. Town Systems & Policies

- i. There was a review and discussion of a Town DEI statement on Ukraine. The Disability Commission and AHRC have voted to approve. KS made motion to approve for RC, SRV seconded, unanimously approved.
- ii. Lieutenant Flavin from APD joined to discuss transgender policy, correcting mistakes, better understanding and appropriate use of terminology, openness to learning and dialogue, and sensitivity around interactions with transgender individuals.
- iii. There was a discussion regarding the Police Commission letter of endorsement. SRV made a motion to approve, KS seconded, RC unanimously approved.
- iv. Domestic partnership update from guest AM, accepting feedback and comments. AHRC will vote in April meeting and Select Board meeting next Monday (SRV will attend). There is a provision for Town employees to take certain leave time for domestic partners similar to leave options for spouses (e.g., sick time leave). The Town will not be able to provide domestic partners of employees with health insurance. Somerville has submitted a home rule petition to provide health insurance for domestic partners and Arlington will monitor the progress of their petition.

d. Budget

- i. Spending to date in FY 22 has been \$1179.95 and there is about \$2600 left to spend. The budget will be standing agenda item in upcoming RC meetings.

7. Liaison Updates

a. APS

- i. See updates from MG above.

b. Council on Aging

- i. MSI attended Lex pride active bystander training with True Story Theater, and there were about 20 attendees total. The next co-sponsored event with Lexington will take place at their community center in April. The monthly tea talks between international students from the high school and seniors is ongoing. Real Queer will be back in person at Robbins Library on 4/27. The movie will be "Debs." The library is planning a pride prom on 5/20 and looking

for volunteers. The event will likely be held at the community center.

- c. Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
 - i. CC provided an update. JH will be out of the office from 3/17 – 3/22, 3/30 – 4/4, and 4/15 – 4/19. The ADA Coordinator and Community Engagement & Outreach positions have been posted. Equity audit proposal reviews are starting, and interviews will be held in the beginning of April. There will be an anti-racism training for town and school staff planned for April.
- d. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson
 - i. RC made a donation for GSA t-shirts, and community member KE thanked for generous donation and assistance in fundraising. GSA has almost reached their goal.
 - ii. RC sent announcement regarding T-shirts to the email distribution list.
 - iii. Update from guest KG (Arlington youth counseling) regarding work with GSA.
- e. Library
 - i. See updates from MSI above.
- f. Police Department
 - i. See update above from Lt. Flavin.
- g. Select Board (no update; LD not available for second half of meeting).

8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary

- a. Question about QSA for elementary schools. We're aware of rainbow alliances at Pierce and Dallin and MBG will get back to KG on the other schools. KG also asking for Town support for a speaker from the Family acceptance project.

8:34 PM: SRV moved to adjourn meeting, LK seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Rescheduled to Thursday April 14, 2022, 6:30 PM, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.